

ACADEMIC ANCHOR

Addressing educational issues that affect military children

~ February 2010 ~

IN THIS ISSUE:

Education Options	P2
Online Resource	P2
Tutor.com for FREE	P3
Tutoring Conundrum	P4
CA Education Reform	P5
Cyberbullying	P6
Special Needs Support	P8
Kids Corner	P9
Spotlight on Ventura	P11
College Corner	P11
Contact us!	P12



2010 K-12 Joint Education Forum

Save the Date

The K-12 Joint Education Forum sponsored by Navy Region Southwest and Marine Corps Installations West will be held on April 26, 2010 at the Admiral Kidd Conference Center on Naval Base Pt. Loma. This second annual K-12 Joint Education Forum will invite and allow all stakeholders in K-12 Education of military children to work collaboratively to build strong and sustainable partnerships that will support military children (and all children) in education.

The theme of this year's K-12 Education Forum is "Building Partnerships to Support K-12 Education." The Forum has three distinct objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for military leadership, military service providers and school leaders to come together and open lines of communication and to establish collaborative relationships.
- Examine issues that affect military children in education and how we leverage resources to support military children in K-12 education settings.
- Provide up-to-date information about the resources and support available to school districts supporting military children, and military families with children in k-12 education settings.

A Call for Presentations went out in December and are due by February 1, 2010. You can download an application at www.schooliaisonsw.com. We are accepting applications for presentations and exhibitors/vendors. Anyone wishing to sponsor the event should contact Nancy Walker at nancy.walker@navy.mil. Or Irene Wells at Irene.wells@navy.mil. Invitations for the event will go out in late February, but for now, SAVE THE DATE!

Education Options in San Diego Resource Fair

School districts throughout San Diego County have a variety of k-12 educational options for families that are interested in alternative programs and/or schools. On February 3, 2010, the School Liaisons will be hosting a resource fair that will provide families with an abundance of information about available options. Vendors from area charter, magnet, virtual, and home schools will be on hand to answer your questions and highlight their programs. The EDUCATION OPTIONS IN SAN DIEGO resource fair will be held from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Murphy Canyon Chapel in the Murphy Canyon Housing Area. Please feel free to bring your children along.

Please note that the San Diego Unified School District's deadline for applying for School Choice for School Year 2010/11 is February 15, 2010. More information about the enrollment process in San Diego Unified and applications are available online at www.sandi.net. Click on ENROLLMENT.

For more information about the EDUCATION OPTIONS IN SAN DIEGO RESOURCE FAIR, please contact:

Kelli Miller 858-577-6633

Kelli.miller@usmc.mil

Chanin Massaglia 619-247-9082



This Month's Featured Web Resource

Book Adventure.com

WHAT: Book Adventure is a FREE reading motivation program for children

WHERE: www.bookadventure.org

WHO: All children in grades k-8

HOW: Children create their own book lists from over 7,000 recommended titles, take multiple choice quizzes on the books they've read, and earn points and prizes for their literary successes. Book Adventure was created by and is maintained by Sylvan Learning.



<https://www.bookadventure.org>

INTRODUCING TUTOR.COM

FREE Online Tutor Help 24/7

WHAT: Tutor.com is a FREE Online Tutoring Company that provides one-o-one help from certified teachers 24/7.

WHERE: www.Tutor.com/navy Once you sign in to Navy Knowledge Online, look for Tutor.com links in the following sections under the REFERENCE tab:

WHO: All U.S. Navy active duty members, Navy Reservists on active duty, Navy Retirees, their families have free DoD Civilians, unlimited access to Tutor.com.

HOW: Access is through Navy Knowledge Online [NKO]; once the family member account is established [DEERS is the verification source].

MATH
Elementary
Algebra I and II
Geometry
Trigonometry
Calculus
Statistics

SCIENCE
Earth Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

ENGLISH
Vocabulary
Grammar
Writing Center
Literature

SOCIAL STUDIES

RESUME HELP

JOB SEARCH

GED PREP/BACK TO SCHOOL

**Get Free Help.
Get an Online Tutor.
Find a Resource 24/7.**

You must sign into Navy Knowledge Online to access the program.

"I've gotten better grades because of this service. I've gone from getting F's in math, to getting B's. Thank you!"
—Algebra Student

About Tutor.com
Tutor.com gives students of all ages the help they need to succeed in school and beyond. Their online learning and career services are #1 in the industry and set the standard for innovative products for libraries, schools, colleges and businesses. Every Tutor.com session is academically sound, and the tutors provide a positive learning experience that's always one-to-one.

You've Got...
algebra homework
chemistry test
resume to write
family budget
math problems

Academic and Career Help in Every Subject!

www.tutor.com/navy

This program is provided by the Department of Defense as a benefit to all United States active-duty military service members, U.S. military reservists, U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status, U.S. military retirees, DoD civilians assigned to full maintenance, and their dependents.

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The Tutoring Conundrum

Does my child need a tutor?

Once the purview of struggling students with affluent parents, now the \$3.5 billion industry caters to kids of all ages, aptitudes, and income levels. But unlike organic lettuce whose price point dropped when it went into mass production, tutoring hasn't necessarily become any more affordable or effective as a result of going mainstream. Check out these tips and warnings before plunking down the hard cash and filling up your child's recreational time.

Now or never?

Fueled by concerns about rising academic standards and tougher standardized testing, as well as by parents seeking a competitive edge for their kids, the rapid expansion in tutoring has some companies now offering their services to children as young as 4 years old.

Whether providing long division drills or foreign-language instruction, tutors can offer a great advantage over big classrooms since the teaching is specifically tailored to each child's level. But for parents, it's often difficult to assess their value. Without testing, standardized curriculum, or a way to compare results with other tutors, parents must do their homework to find and assess tutoring programs that will help their children.

Given these obstacles, combined with the steep price of many programs, it's no wonder many parents find themselves paralyzed by indecision: Should I get a tutor for my child? Or is this some sort of spendy fad?

Catch the problem early

The most compelling reason to hire a tutor is if your child is struggling with basic schoolwork: reading, math, writing, even handwriting. In this case, don't delay seeking help. Remedial tutoring can start at any age, but catching the problem early is best.

"Signs that a student needs tutoring may be frustration with a subject or schoolwork that is consistently avoided," says Sue Wilde, a math tutor

in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

"I know of hundreds of high school students who could have used tutoring earlier and would have benefited," says Amy Alton Barrios, a tutor and former high school teacher in San Francisco. "But no matter what age they are or where they are academically, any student will benefit from tutoring. It's the one-on-one that makes the difference."

Your child may benefit from a tutor if:

- He seems to be trying, but his grades don't show it.
- Her homework is incomplete or not done well.
- He shows an increasing lack of confidence and motivation about school.
- She is very anxious about tests.
- The teacher says he is misbehaving.

These can be signs of weak skills or serious academic problems in the making. First talk with your child's teacher to find out what he or she thinks the issue is. If it seems behavioral, you may also want to talk to the school counselor or principal.

Research your options

There are many types of tutoring providers, ranging from school-based programs to online services. The possibilities include:

- Commercial franchises such as Sylvan Learning, Kumon, SCORE! Educational Centers, or Huntington Learning Center
- Private tutors — check with your child's teacher or other parents for recommendations
- After-school tutoring programs offered at many schools and libraries
- Local college tutoring centers (these centers often have lists of tutors willing to work with K-12 students)
- Online tutoring such as MathNerds.com or Tutor.com
- Online tutoring referral services (TutorNation.com)
- Web-based learning support

systems (Time4Learning.com)

- SAT test preparation centers (ranging from national companies such as Kaplan and The Princeton Review to locally run centers and classes)
- No Child Left Behind state-approved service providers

Basics to consider before hiring a tutor

Before you begin your quest for the perfect tutor, ask the following questions:

- What do you want your child to be able to achieve as a result of tutoring?
- Do you want a diagnostic test to determine your child's skill gaps?
- Are you willing to commute for tutoring? How far?
- How much can you afford?
- Do you want flexibility (drop-in services) or a more formal arrangement?
- Would group tutoring be right for your child?

Rates vary widely

As a private tutor, Barrios has found that there is great variation in rates among her peers. "Tutors are pretty independent," she says. "Rates seem to vary according to the subject being taught. High school chemistry, calculus, and SAT prep are more expensive than other subjects, and high school and college students charge less than a credentialed teacher."

Tutoring rates range from free online homework help (Tutor.com, for example) to \$20 an hour for community tutors to packages at franchises for several thousands of dollars. At the very high end, premier SAT prep tutors can command as much as several hundred dollars an hour.

In the end the tutor is only part of the equation... Even the greatest of tutors are not magicians."

California Education Reform Legislation

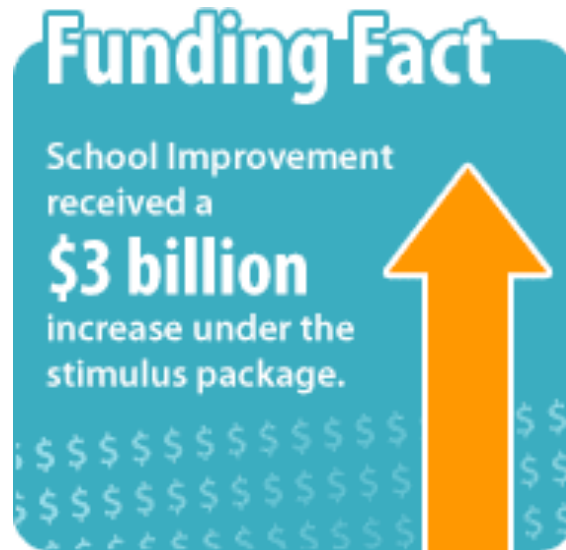
Parents have more power

01/07/2010 GAAS:791:09 FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After calling a special session and introducing a bi-partisan legislative package, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed historic education reform legislation making California highly competitive in President Obama's national \$4.35 billion Race to the Top education reform and funding competition. Bi-partisan measures [SBX5 1](#) by Senate pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and [SBX5 4](#) by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) ensure California can submit a highly competitive application for up to \$700 million in much needed funding for our schools by implementing historic and sweeping education reform measures to better California's education system.

"Today is a truly historic day for children and parents throughout the state of California – and for the future of our state's education system," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "President Obama called for positive change across the nation and California's leaders answered that call. Working together we have passed sweeping education reforms to better our children's education, empower parents and make California highly competitive for much needed federal funding for our schools."

In addition to ensuring California's application for Race to the Top is highly competitive, the signing of these legislative measures into law



demonstrates California is ready to break away from the status-quo and work to truly improve education for students – as envisioned by President Obama's Race to the Top initiative. The reforms contained in [SBX5 1](#) and [SBX5 4](#) will change the culture of education in California by empowering parents to have a true voice in making choices for their children and ensuring their voices are heard at every level of their school district. Intended to address Obama Administration competitiveness requirements, highlights of these reform measures include:

- Implementing bold turnaround strategies in the bottom five percent of persistently low-performing schools.
- Allowing California parents more freedom to choose the school that best serves their children by authorizing open enrollment for students in the lowest-performing schools.
- Enacting new authority for parents to petition and require school boards to fix failing schools.

Affirming California's student and teacher data systems may be used by local districts to evaluate teachers and principals, subject to collective bargaining.

"California now has a bold action plan to empower parents, embrace accountability, transform under-performing schools and help give every child equal access to education and to success," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "For years we've imagined a day when parents have the right to move their child out of a failing school and the right to make major changes in chronically underperforming schools – in California that day has arrived."

There are some school districts (San Diego Unified being one) that have decided not to apply for the Race to the Top Funds due to the restrictiveness of the funds. Richard Barrera, SDUSD Board President, stated in a KPBS interview that, "Of the 186 schools in San Diego Unified only about 8 would qualify for these funds...and the funds are restricted. The money would not simply fill holes in the budget." Barrera further explained that there is concern amongst board members about the requirement to match teacher evals with test results. To listen to the whole interview or to read the transcript, visit <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/jan/19/school-board-president-discusses-budget-shortfall/>

The Changing Face of Bullying

Cyberbullying

This year, National Anti-Bullying week shines a spotlight on the fastest growing face of bullying: cyberbullying. Basically, this means using information and communication technology to deliberately upset someone else. It includes bullying via mobile phones, instant messaging, emails, blogs, Twitter, websites, chatrooms, message boards, Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) such as Second Life, or social networking sites like Facebook and Bebo.

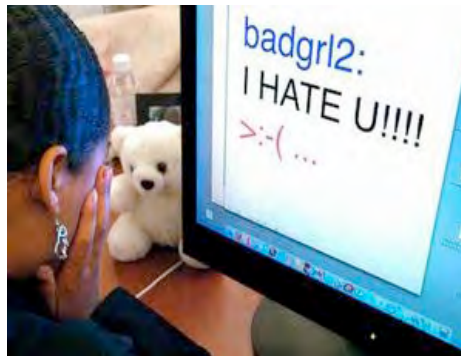
Cyberbullying can include:

- Threats and blackmail
- Harassment
- texting unpleasant messages
- hacking online activities/accounts
- Impersonating a person
- Posting unpleasant comments
- Sharing videos of bullying
- Sending viruses
- Manipulating someone to do something:
- '-Sexting'

The difficulty most children and parents face with cyber bullying is that it is more difficult to contain and control. Information can spread rapidly, repeatedly and widely – whether it was intentionally hurtful in the first place or not – and it can creep into a child's personal space no matter where they are. Those who bully can choose to remain anonymous and they don't necessarily need to be physically more powerful to bully anymore. Anonymity can also mean that boundaries could be pushed even further than if someone is physically in your face.

So how can you help, especially if you feel like children know more about technology than you do? Help children make themselves more cyberbully-proof by encouraging them not to combine real names, ages and rovocative words as their sername/email address.

Sexybecs13@whatever.com may



seem a fun idea to 13 year old Becs who is just getting into boys and having fun experimenting with harmless flirting etc – but it gives away a surprising amount of detail to anyone looking hard enough who might not be so harmless. You might want to use a picture or image on a profile instead of a real photo. Keep passwords private and make them hard to guess by using random letters and numbers instead of names, phone numbers and birthdays etc. This makes it difficult for people to hack into email accounts. The web is a very deceptive space. It can feel very private and intimate, but it's very public. You may need to discuss that the details they display, who they talk to and what they talk about are far more open and accessible than they might realize. We insist that children tell us the truth about things and we drill them that they are rude if they don't answer questions or speak to people when spoken to - but they need to know that the web is the one place where it's okay not to answer people, to block and delete people and not to give out details like real names, personal information, phone numbers and addresses. They also need to know that other people don't always tell the truth on their profiles and in conversations either. If bullied, instant messaging services such as MSN have features that allow you to block or delete people, but children may need encouragement that it's okay to block people. On MySpace and Bebo, profiles can be set to 'private' so that only approved people can see it. On email accounts such as hotmail, you can block email addresses by clicking

on 'options', then 'more options'. Click the heading 'junk mail' then click 'safe and blocked senders'. Finally, click the 'blocked senders' option and type the offending email address into the box and click 'add to the list'. Be as interested and open to talking about online friends and what a child does online as you would face-to-face friends and activities. Children need to know that it's better to tell you about something that's happened online – as soon as possible - even if they've joined in bullying themselves or got themselves into an embarrassing situation. Save messages if you need to take further action about them.

Cyberbullying through mobile phones is much harder to prevent. You can remind children to be careful who they give their phone number to, but in all fairness most give out their phone numbers in good faith to people they think are friends. The problem is that they have little control over whether those people remain friends or if their number is passed on to others without their consent.

If you do find that nuisance calls or texts are a problem, you can report this to your mobile phone provider. Newer phones may have reject lists where you can block a number but generally the only thing a phone company will be able to do is offer to change your number and liaise with the police on the matter.

This information was taken from 'Bullying: A Guide for Parents' written by author and psychologist Sian Morgan. It is available to download or order at www.stopthespiral.com where you can also find more free information about bullying. Sian is currently designing a resource for children to help rebuild their confidence when they've been bullied. If you have children who have been bullied and they'd like to tell Sian what they'd like to see her include in this resource, she would love to hear from them at www.stopthespiral.com.

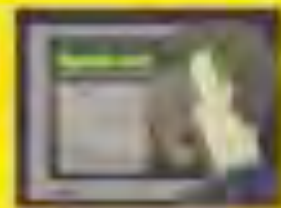
CYBERBULLYING...



Don't be a Victim or a Cyberbully!

- ☐ Stop, Block and Tell (don't respond to any cyberbullying message, block the person sending it to you and tell a trusted adult)
- ☐ Think4Click (think about what you are sending before you send it... think about it from the recipient's point of view)
- ☐ R-E-S-P-E-C-T (use good netiquette and respect the feelings and sensitivity of others)
- ☐ Keep personal information private (the more information someone has about you, the more easily they can bully you)
- ☐ Google yourself! (conduct frequent searches for your own personal information online and set alerts...to spot cyberbullying early)
- ☐ Take 5! (walk away from the computer for 5 minutes when something irritates you, so you don't do something you will later regret)

www.stopcyberbullying.org



Read Across America



The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its fourteenth year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources.

NEA's Read Across America Day, NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by

bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.

Read Across America on SchoolTube

SchoolTube has created a Read Across America channel designed to showcase student and educator videos from around the country. To sign up and share your videos, go to www.schooltube.com/user/NEAreadacrossamerica.



Support for Special Needs

Resources for your child with Special Education Needs

Taking the SAT and ACT with Accommodations

Taking the SAT

The College Board will work with high schools to accommodate special needs students. They will need a copy of the IEP (Individual Educational Plan) as well as school verification. There are seven categories to their guidelines. They are as follows: stated disability; current documentation; educational, developmental, and medical history; description of techniques used to arrive at the diagnosis; description of functional limitations; description of specific accommodations; and credentials of the evaluator.

Some of the accommodations include large print tests, fewer items on each page, audiocassette, dictation, computer without a spell check or grammar check, extended time, multiple days, and a private room.

Because documentation is detailed, work with your high school special

education director to plan for testing. Begin planning early in the junior year.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html>

Taking the ACT

The ACT assesses general educational information. It is a multiple choice test that covers the areas of English, math, reading, and science. There is an optional writing test similar to the SAT writing assessment. The ACT also provides accommodations for students with special needs. They require a professional diagnosis and a documented disability. There are three categories of special testing, each requiring specific documentation: Center Testing # 1, Center Testing # 2, and Special Testing.

Center Testing # 1 includes a large print test book and physical accommodations such as wheelchair accessibility, hearing impairment accommodations, food for diabetics, a sign language interpreter, or a printed

copy of the spoken instructions. Testing is done at a regular test site.

Center Testing # 2 includes a large print testbook and up to 50 percent more time to take the test. Testing is done at a regular test center, but it may not be your preferred center.

Special Testing includes testing over multiple days, an alternate testing form, and accommodations that your testing center cannot provide.

For students testing for the first time, registration cannot be completed on the web because of documentation to prove disability and professional diagnostic information that is required. A written request must be submitted.

Talk with your special education director to begin the process for testing. Again, begin early to make arrangements. It's important to understand that you may not be able to test at your preferred testing site.

<http://www.act.org/aap/disab/index.html>

Kid's Corner



February Kid Links

February is full of holidays and celebrations. February also celebrates Black History Month, and Dental Health Month. Here are links to some great websites for kids. There are activities, facts and so much more!

Groundhog Day

[Groundhog .org - the Official Site of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club](http://www.officialsiteofthepunxsutawneygroundhogclub.com/)

This page is fun in that it gives predictions since 1887.

[Groundhog Day History from Stormfax](http://www.stormfax.com/ghogday.htm)

www.stormfax.com/ghogday.htm

Learn about the history of Groundhog Day here.

[Woodchuck](http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/mammals/woodchuck/)

<http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/mammals/woodchuck/>

Here is information on the woodchuck.

Black History Month

[Education First: Black History Activities](http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/index.html)

www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/index.html

Here are some ideas and activities to use in your classroom for Black History month.

[The History Channel's Black History Home Page](http://www.history.com/content/blackhistory)

www.history.com/content/blackhistory

[Black History Internet Challenge](http://www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/)

www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/

Dental Health Month

[The Tooth Fairy](http://www.toothfairy.org/) www.toothfairy.org/

There are many links on dental education here.

[Oral-B Teaching Tools](http://www.oralb.com/en-US/topics/) www.oralb.com/en-US/topics/

There are lesson plans for primary and intermediate students on dental health at this site. There are activity masters to

[Dental Zone Health Quiz](http://www.saveyoursmile.com/quiz/dzonlinequiz.html)

www.saveyoursmile.com/quiz/dzonlinequiz.html

Test your dental knowledge with this online quiz. Appropriate for older grades.

One Hundreth Day of School!

[100th Day of School Homepage](http://www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/proj/100th/index.html)

Lots of interesting ideas for day 100.

www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/proj/100th/index.html

Valentine's Day Mailbox Craft

Does your child need a creative and inexpensive way to collect Valentine's Day cards this year? Try making this great conversation heart mailbox.

What you'll need:

Cereal box

Construction paper: red, blue, white and pink

Glitter glue: blue, pink, purple, orange, red

White craft glue

Scissors

Heart-shaped cookie cutter (optional)

Heart-shaped craft foam

How to make it:

1. Cut cereal box in half, keeping the bottom half. Reserve the remaining cardboard for another project.
2. Cover the entire box with red construction paper using white craft glue.
3. Trace cookie cutters, or draw freehand, to create hearts from blue, white and pink construction paper. You will need two of each color for a total of six.
4. Use glitter glue to write short phrases or acronyms on the hearts. Some examples might include "kiss me," "BFF (best friends forever)," "luv you," "hug me," "be mine," and "cutie."
5. Allow the glitter glue to dry completely, this can take several hours.
6. Glue three hearts, one of each color, to one side of the box, overlapping the hearts, tops of the hearts should stick out above the top of the box. Repeat on the other side. Glue foam hearts to the sides of the box.



Kid's Corner

February Holidays Word Search

N N O T G N I H S A W E D T F
 M B E U L C O M W K I N E M B
 P K K T G D H A W B K I N Z E
 W D R Q S Y I O S C I T T S Q
 J L N B Y A O P S U Z N I K Z
 L N I M T N P H U G R E S E J
 R N B N U H A H O C W L T L R
 Z D Y Q C D B H T I G A C O L
 F F E H O O D C Z O C V I E P
 F O V W B N L R D P O W O L Y
 F N O Z U L T N F H H T E E T
 S M L O M I P R E S I D E N T
 I Z R L I Q Z R F N F T U Q O
 Z G Q P E N A B J L Z A D N Z
 N J U L O G Q V D S Z S T I A

CUPID
 DENTIST
 GROUNDHOG
 LINCOLN
 LOVE

PRESIDENT
 SHADOW
 TEETH
 TOOTHPASTE
 VALENTINE
 WASHINGTON

Monthly Home School Activity

President's Day WebQuest

Welcome to the Presidents Day Web Quest on President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln. You are a time traveler, going back in time to discover facts about these presidents. You will discover that Washington and Lincoln are among our most honored presidents. You will also find that they are our country's most beloved presidents. In this WebQuest you will find many interesting facts about these presidents, as you travel back in time to explore our national history.

Visit

<http://its.guilford.k12.nc.us/webquests/presidents/pres.htm>
 to start traveling!

Lincoln's Log House Snack

Presidents' Day is a great time to teach kids about how our forefathers grew up in log cabins and worked the land with their own two hands. This pretzel log cabin is a fun and edible history lesson in the making!

What you'll need:

- Small empty milk carton
- Pretzel sticks
- Chocolate frosting or peanut butter
- 1 Rolo or other tubular shaped candy
- 1 square cracker
- Scissors
- Hot glue or tape

How to make it:

1. Cut the top flap of the milk carton off and tape or hot glue it closed to form the roof.
2. Spread chocolate frosting or peanut butter on one side of milk carton then cover with pretzels. Repeat this step all over the milk carton until log cabin is complete. You may need to break the tips off of some of the pretzels to make them fit up the sides.
3. Break a square cracker in half, then break one of the halves in half. Spread some frosting or peanut butter on the back of the first half. "Glue" it to the front of the cabin as the door. Repeat this step with a smaller broken piece for the window.
4. Spread some frosting or peanut butter to the bottom of Rolo and stick to the roof.





Excellence in Education

Ventura County

Military Spouses Making a Difference in a Ventura County School

Laguna Vista School in Ocean View School District in Oxnard is a California Distinguished School serving the children who live on Pt. Mugu. Parent volunteers are an indispensable part of our school. They organize programs that help students with academic needs such as tutoring and volunteering in classrooms. They help create programs that develop strong community-school partnerships and promote school spirit. Some parents serve on our School Site Council to provide input on the many decisions needed to be made to operate a school. And other parents serve on our Parent-Teacher Club (PTC) to assist with fund raising efforts for student rewards, assemblies and field trips. Here are three military spouses who have devoted their time and energy to the Laguna Vista School community.

Easter Christopher began a story time in the school library last year. Teachers signed up weekly for a time slot and brought their classes to hear Mrs. Christopher read their favorite children's literature. This year she expanded her role and is the volunteer Family Literacy Coach. Mrs. Christopher is a credentialed teacher, highly knowledgeable in reading instruction and Gifted and Talented Education. She has held workshops for parents to share ideas on helping pick books for their children and understanding the process of learning to read. She organized a Family Reading Night, worked with teachers in selecting literature for GATE students, and trained volunteers to tutor students. Thank you and hats off to Mrs. Christopher!

Patience Boulais spent so much time volunteering at

our school the staff teased her that she should get paid for her time. She is doing that now as a morning and noon duty supervisor. During her off hours, Mrs. Boulais can be seen all over the campus with a camera around her neck. In addition to helping in classrooms, she is the volunteer coordinator of the Laguna Vista yearbook. She takes pictures of every event in every classroom and works with the students on Student Council, training them to be yearbook photographers. When Patience completes the layout for the yearbook, she makes sure that every student in the school has a least one candid picture in the book in addition to the class photo. Thank you and hats off to Mrs. Boulais!

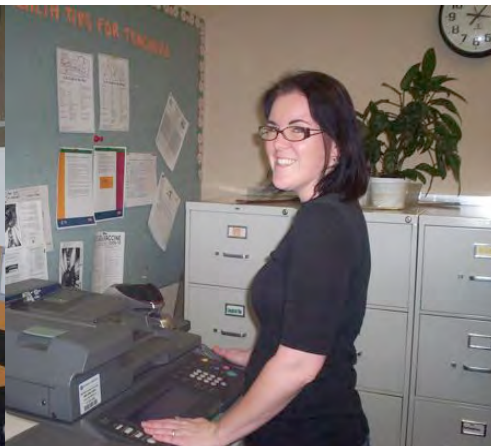
Every school needs that one parent who will step forward and take on the job of the Parent-Teacher Club president. This is a particularly difficult position in military impacted schools because often board members must leave in the middle of the school year. Adria Banks, the Laguna Vista PTC president, has abounding energy. She took the position at a time when many veteran board members received orders to new locations. In addition to keeping the PTC running smoothly, she makes cookies for bake sales, cooks wonderful food for teacher appreciation lunches, counts cash from fundraisers and organizes a jog-a-thon. She does all this with her two year old at her side. Thank you and hats off to Mrs. Banks!

Laguna Vista Elementary School is so fortunate to have these wonderful parent volunteers as part of its school community!

Patience Boulais

Adria Banks

Easter Christopher





The College Corner

Resources for your high school students

Students Benefit from Boys and Girls State

Military families starting to plan college visits for their rising seniors should also consider factoring in another excellent opportunity for their students. Boys and Girls State, sponsored respectively by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, are summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school students between their junior and senior years. Boys and Girls State programs are held in every state, except Hawaii, usually on a college campus within that state. These programs are designed to help students learn first-hand how their state and local government work.

American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary members and community leaders volunteer their time to staff the programs. Delegates to Boys and Girls State are selected with the help of their high school principal on the basis of potential leadership qualities. The final selection is made by American Legion posts. In most cases, individual expenses (except for air fare) are paid by a sponsoring post, local business, or another community-based organization.

For families serving overseas, the American Legion Boys State of Missouri (MBS) is now offering eight openings for DoDEA students, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is important for families to know that Missouri Boys State places no Missouri residency restrictions on DoDEA students. The 2010 MBS Session will be held June 12-19 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO. For more information on this program, interested boys should contact their high school counselor or visit the MBS website at www.moboyssstate.org. For further opportunities, military families stationed overseas should contact their home state American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.

To learn more about Boys and Girls State, visit: www.boysandgirlsstate.org.
(Source: <http://www.legion.org/boysnation/stateabout>)

2010 CPO SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN!

The Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund was established solely for the purpose of generating and distributing funds to provide educational opportunities for qualified family members of Chief Petty Officers. Candidates eligible for scholarship awards are spouses and children (natural born, adopted or stepchildren) of all Chief Petty Officers.

Candidates submitting scholarship applications must, in the year of submission of their scholarship application, be about to graduate or have graduated from an accredited high school, or equivalent educational institution or have successfully earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and must intend to enter, or be currently enrolled in a community college, vocational college, college or university to complete the curriculum prescribed in or to be graduated with an AA, AS, BA or BS degree.

The number of scholarship awards and the amounts to be disbursed yearly are determined solely by the financial status of the fund. The Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund is non-profit and dependent upon Tax-deductible donations to support its educational "Gift of Knowledge."

For more information, requirements and application, visit: <http://www.cposf.org/>



SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER IN SAN DIEGO"

What will your kids do this summer? Will they go to day camp? Surf camp? Perhaps a sports camp? Maybe they need extra academic help. To help you plan for your summer, the Navy and Marine Corps School Liaison Programs will be hosting a Summer in San Diego Resource Fair on March 23rd at the Naval Base Pt. Loma Marina. Representatives from area camps, academic programs, MWR and more will be on hand with information and registration packets. Be sure to check for event updates at www.schooliaisonsw.com



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Kirsten Webb
CNRSW Regional SL &
serving El Centro
619-532-4251
kirsten.webb@navy.mil

Desiree Clarke
San Diego Metro SLO
Murphy Canyon/downtown
619-991-2509
desiree.clarke@navy.mil

Monica James
Naval Base Ventura SLO
805-989-5211
monica.james@navy.mil

Kelly Donahue
San Diego Metro SLO
Coronado/South Bay
619-247-9109
kelly.donahue@navy.mil

Chanin Massaglia
San Diego Metro SLO
East San Diego/Chula Vista
619-247-9082
chanin.massaglia@navy.mil

Robin Williamson
San Diego Metro SLO
Pt. Loma/Coastal SD
858-431-6482
robin.williamson@navy.mil